

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1742

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AORG UN XF

SUBJ: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: ARABIC AS UN LANGUAGE

1. SECRETARIAT HAS COMPLETED PREPARATION OF REPORT (A/C. 5/1564 ADVANCED COPY PROVIDED ON STOTTLEMYER ACABQ) ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED INCLUSION OF ARABIC AMONG OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF GA AND ITS COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES. COSTS ARE ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS: SALARIES AND COMMON STAFF COSTS - \$1,995,000; GA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE - \$370,000; RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (FULL YEAR) - \$186,000; INTERNAL REPRODUCTION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES - \$95,000; COMMUNICATIONS - \$50,000; INSTALLATION - \$10,000; OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE - \$40,000; ALTERATIONS TO PREMISES - \$238,000; TOTAL \$2,984,000. STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR \$384,000 WOULD ALSO BE ADDED BUT WOULD BE OFFSET UNDER INCOME SECTION ONE BY SAME AMOUNT. IN ADDITION, PROVISION OF SUMMARY RECORDS IN ARABIC WOULD COST \$994,000 AND VERBATIM RECORDS WITH SOME ADDITIONAL RECORDING AND SOUND TRANSCRIPTION EQUIPMENT \$338,000.

2. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE PERSISTENTLY PUT
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FORWARD IDEA CONTAINED PARA 3 STATE 197420 BUT

THIS POSITION, WHILE AROUSING EXPRESSION OF POLITE INTEREST, HAS GOTTEN NOWHERE. WEOS FAOUND CONCEPT "CLEVER BUT IMPRACTICAL." ARAB DELS REACTED POLITELY BUT WITHOUT FURTHER INTEREST.

3. IN LIGHT OF LACK OF INTEREST IN PAY-AS-YOU-GO PLAN, WE SUGGEST SOME VARIATIONS MIGHT BE IN ORDER. AS FIRST POINT, WE MIGHT SEEK WEO AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR DETAILED STUDY OF IMPLICATION OF ADDING ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE HASTY ADDITION OF GERMAN AND JAPANESE TO LIST OF WORKING LANGUAGES, WE SHOULD MAKE POINT THIS IS CERTAINLY POSSIBILITY. HEAVY ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN OF 6, 7, OR 8 WORKING LANGUAGES WOULD PLACE EVEN FURTHER STRAIN ON UN BUDGET. IN ADDITION, DELAYS CAUSED BY TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE AND GA ITSELF COULD REACH POINT OF PARALYSIS. US DEL MIGHT SEEK AGREEMENT FROM OTHERS TO PROPOSE SPECIAL COMITE TO EXAMINE BEST WAY TO ACCOMMODATE INTEREST OF MEMBER STATES IN INTRODUCING NEW LANGUAGES WITHOUT HARMING UN AS EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM, INCLUDING PAY-AS-YOU-GO PLAN, COULD BE STUDIED AND COMITE WOULD REPORT BACK TO 29TH GA.

4. DEPT'S COMMENTS REQUESTED.
BENNETT

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